

Amendments to the Specification

IN THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

Please replace paragraph [033] with the following amended paragraph:

[033] The simplified view of fig. 2 shows, how a similarly constructed projection 17b with a left-hand prong 18b and a right-hand prong 19b is linearly displaceable instead of being constructed in such a way as to rotate about a fulcrum 20a in accordance with ~~fig.~~Fig. 1. The linear displaceability is provided by the operating means 23b. The embodiment of Fig. 2 does not precisely illustrate the operating means and can be easily implemented in a modification of the operating means 23a of fig. 1 or the operating means 23c of fig. 3 or 23d of fig. 4. Only the return spring 34b is shown. This illustrates the fact that on

[033.1] In Fig. 2, the operating means 23b is constructed in such a way that the drive motor 24b rotates a worm wheel 27b. The worm wheel 27b is in engagement with a large counterwheel 28b, which is in turn connected to a small toothed wheel 29b. The small toothed wheel 29b engages in a rack 30b, which is so connected to the projection 17b that it draws the latter with it during a movement to the left or right.

[033.2] In Fig. 2, a return spring 34b is provided that allows an elastic inward movement of the projection 17b, even in the case of a stationary rack 30b. This can e.g. be provided for forcing an end rod 13b into a cavity between the prongs 18b, 19b and automatically extending the projection 17b again for retaining the end rod 13b. The insertion and removal of the projection 17b by means of the operating means 23b for releasing the end rod 13b could in this case take place by the operating means 23b or the drive motor 24b

respectively. As can be gathered from Fig. 2, a gear
comprises the worm wheel 27b, the two toothed wheels 28b, 29b
and the rack 30b. On introducing the end rod 13b into the
longitudinal guide 15b, e.g. from the left over the bevelled
left-hand prong 18b, the projection 17b is forced back again.
It once again encloses the end rod 13b between the two prongs
18b and 19b and in this way secures the ~~same~~rod.